

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 810

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 7407

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, EEWT, RO
SUBJECT: ROMANIAN JEWISH EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

REF: A. BUCHAREST 7054, B. BUCHAREST 6829, C.
STATE 282448

1. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR CAHANA TOLD AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 15 THAT EMIGRATION DATA GIVEN IN LATE NOVEMBER (REFTEL A) REMAIN VALID, WITH DECEMBER ESTIMATED DEPARTURES SLIGHTLY LESS THAN NOVEMBER ONES (100 COMPARED TO 105) AND YEARLY TOTAL TO ISRAEL JUST SHORT OF 2000. PROSPECTS FOR 1977 SO FAR REVEAL NO RISE ABOVE THAT LEVEL. NO NEW PASSPORTS RECEIVED, ASIDE FROM ABOUT 50 SHORTLY AFTER RABBI SCHINDLER'S VISIT. HE SAID EMIGRATION SUBJECT TOUCHED ON BY NAHUM GOLDMAN WITH CEAUSESCU ONLY IN PASSING YESTERDAY AND CEAUSESCU MADE NO PARTICULAR COMMENT.

2. WITH REGARD TO KOREY'S COMMENT REGARDING ABRUPT DECLINE, IT LOOKS AS IF ROMANIANS, AS RABBI SCHINDLER LEARNED (REFTEL B) MAY HAVE BEEN AIMING FOR SOMETHING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF LAST YEAR'S TOTAL AND THIS MEANT LOWERING NUMBERS THIS FALL. IF THAT IS THE CASE AND IF THE TOTAL NUMBERS FOR NEXT YEAR ARE TO BE NO LESS, THEN PASSPORT ISSUANCES SHOULD START UPWARDS SOON SINCE THE ISRAELIS USUALLY CALCULATE ON A TWO-MONTH GAP BETWEEN COMPLETION OF PASSPORT PROCESSING AND DEPARTURE. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI AMBASSADOR CURRENT TOTAL NUMBER ABLE TO LEAVE (I.E. WITH PASSPORTS AND VISAS) IS 350. IF BLUMBERG IS TO WRITE CEAUSESCU SUGGEST
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HE STRESS NOT ONLY THE DECLINE THIS FALL BUT EVEN MORE SO THE

ABSENCE OF ANY SIGNS (I.E. NEW PASSPORT APPROVALS) THAT THE TREND WILL BE REVERSED. IN THIS CONNECTION, HOPE YOU WILL REMIND BOTH BLUMBERG AND KOREY OF OUR SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS HERE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING TO MORE CONCRETE APPROACH. IF THEY ARE GOING TO MAINTAIN THAT 2300-2500 A YEAR RATE (TO ISRAEL AND OTHER DESTINATIONS) IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH THEY WILL HAVE TO ARGUE WITH NAMES THAT THERE ARE MANY MORE JEWS WHO WANT TO LEAVE NOW. THUS A BLUMBERG LETTER TO CEAUSESCU WOULD BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE IF IT CONTAINED SPECIFIC CASES.

3. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC REACTION TO REPORT ON THE BLUMBERG VISIT BEYOND GENERAL POSITIVE BUT PASSING COMMENTS MADE BY BOTH CEAUSESCU AND ANDREI IN COURSE OF OTHER CONVERSATIONS ABOUT UPPITY OF BEING ABLE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH BLUMBERG.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING TO WHAT EXTENT THE B'NAI B'RITH AND SCHINDLER ARE COORDINATING THEIR ACTION AND STRATEGIES, AND TO WHAT EXTENT THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION COINCIDES OR DIFFERS NOW THAT SOME TIME HAS GONE BY SINCE THEY LEFT ROMANIA.

5. ANY SIGNS OF WHEN TO EXPECT ISRAELI REACTION TO ARMITAGE NOVEMBER 15 CONVERSATION WITH PEDAHZUR (REFTEL C)?
BARNES

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